

Please Join us for the

Illinois Youth Court Association Advisory Board Meeting

Thursday, June 7, 2007
11 a.m.— 2 p.m.

Regional Institute for Community Policing
2930 Montvale Dr #B
Springfield, IL 62704

Please RSVP by May 23, 2007
to Theresa Geary at 312-814-0991 or tgeary@atg.state.il.us

Tentative Agenda

Data Collection
IYCA Advisory Board Structure



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February Advisory Board Meeting

On February 1, 2007 the Illinois Youth Court Association Advisory Board met in Chicago. Sixteen representatives from youth court programs across the state, the Illinois Attorney General's Office, Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority, the Illinois Bar Association, University of Chicago, and the American Bar Association were present. This was the first Advisory Board meeting in several months and it was great to see everyone again. At the meeting, Candace Fujii (NICASA Teen Courts) updated members on the National Association of Youth Court efforts (see "National Youth Court Association Formed" article), representatives discussed data collection (see "Data Collection Efforts" article), and new advisory board members were welcomed to the board.

Illinois Youth Court Association Advisory Board: 2007 Initiatives

At the recent Advisory Board, members discussed the duties and composition of the Advisory Board. After the discussion, the members decided that the duties of advisory board members will be:

- to share and disseminate youth court information,
- to assist communities with program development,
- and additional duties as they arise.

Currently the Advisory Board operates under an informal structure. Members discussed working to formalize the Advisory Board including updating the mission, membership

guidelines, and composition of the Advisory Board. After a brief discussion, members agreed that there is a need for both organizational representatives (such as representatives from the American Bar Association and the state Bar Association) and youth court coordinators.

In January, following a call for new members, several youth court coordinators expressed an interest in joining the Advisory Board. The board appointed all of these individuals to join the board. Future board members will be determined by fiscal restraints, however all IYCA Advisory Board

meetings are open meetings. At the June meeting the discussion will continue on creating the necessary bylaws to formalize the Advisory Board.

The IYCA will work on the following initiatives in 2007,

- formalizing the Advisory Board and determining a list of guiding principles,
- establishing data collection and evaluation recommendations,
- And completing a survey of Illinois Youth Court programs.



National Youth Court Association Formed

The National Association of Youth Courts is now up and running! State youth court associations and networking groups, with assistance from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the Office of Safe and Drug Free Schools and Phi Alpha Delta Public Service Center, have been hard at work developing a national youth court association.

The National Association of Youth Courts will represent more than 1,200 youth court,

teen court, and peer jury programs in the United States. The association will assist youth courts through technical assistance programs such as the Double Header Youth Court trainings (see page 6). In addition, the new association will coordinate fundraising efforts on both the national and local level for youth court programs.

IYCA Advisory Board members Candace Fujii (NICASA Teen Court Programs), Sergeant Gary Kepley (Mattoon Teen Court) and David Kidd (Macon County Teen Court) serve as Illinois' representatives to the National

Association of Youth Courts. For more information regarding the National Association of Youth Court, please contact Candace, at cfujii@nicasa.org.



Data Collection Efforts

Data collection is an important tool for youth courts. Collecting information on program participants helps youth courts to demonstrate their feasibility to granters and other funders. Data collection can help organizations sustain and enhance their programs.

Recognizing the importance of data collection in program development and the need to establish consistent measures, the National Association of Youth Courts has established a Research and Data committee as part of their efforts to establish national guidelines on data collection. The national effort hopes to produce a clear, uniform model for programs to use.

Members of the national association will contact each youth court in the country requesting data

on programs for the 2006 calendar year. Programs will be asked to share:

- The number of youth volunteers
- The number of adult volunteers
- The number of youth offenders referred
- The number of cases heard
- The number of cases successfully completed
- The number of youth volunteer hours
- The number of adult volunteer hours
- The number of community service hours preformed.

The Illinois Youth Court Association also is working to review the data collected by programs in Illinois. The Advisory Board seeks to
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Data Collection Efforts (continued from Page 3)

compile data and establish a mechanism for sharing information between programs. Also, this will provide the IYCA with more detailed information on Illinois' efforts to promote and sustain youth court programs. The IYCA is interested in working towards a uniform, integrated database of program data for Illinois youth courts.

The February Advisory Board meeting included a discussion on existing youth courts' data collection efforts. The discussion illustrated the challenges programs face in sharing information across agencies and the various definitions of recidivism used. Representatives at the meeting shared their experiences with various data collection software. Programs use a variety of software to track participants and perform data analysis. For instance, the Aurora Peer Jury utilizes an Access Program modeled off of a juvenile drug court system database while NICASA uses MCHC, a multi-state software system. Recognizing the variety of data collection methods, the Advisory Board decided to continue the discussion on data collection at the next meeting when representatives can share examples of the forms they use for data collection and sample data. The discussion on data collection will be ongoing as the Advisory Board and the National Association of Youth Courts work to configure a recommended model. The board encourages members to bring blank samples of the data collection forms their programs use to the June meeting.

Resources for Youth Court Programs

The IYCA has a limited number of the following publications available for interested youth court programs on a first come basis. Please contact Theresa Geary at tgeary@atq.state.il.us if you are interested in receiving a copy.

CD: National Youth Court Center Publications, by the National Youth Court Center

Giving Back Introducing Community Service Learning, Improving Mandated Community Service for Juvenile Offenders, by Charles Degelman, Keri Doggett, and Gregorio Medina

Peer Justice & Youth Empowerment an Implementation Guide for Teen Court Programs, by Tracy M. Godwin

Youth Court: A Community Solution for Embracing at Risk Youth, by Sara S. Pearson and Sonia Jurich

Youth Cases for Youth Courts Desktop Guide, by Margaret E. Fisher

Lets get Real: The Powerful Documentary where Youth Speak-up about Name Calling & Bullying (video and curriculum guide), by Women's Educational Media

Homicide Life on the Street Lessons in Law (VHS), by Court TV

The Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority has the following publications available:

The "Little Book" Series:

The Little Book of Restorative Justice, by Howard Zehr

The Little Book of Family Group Conferences, by Allan MacRae and Howard Zehr

The Little Book of Circle Processes, by Kay Pranis

The Little Book of Restorative Discipline for Schools, by Lorraine Stutzman

The Little Book of Restorative Justice for People in Prisons, by Barb Toews

The Little Book of Conflict Transformation, by John Paul Lederach

Restorative Justice Guides

A guide for Juvenile Detention

A Guide for Juvenile Corrections

A Guide for Defense Attorneys

A Guide for Juvenile Court Judges

A Guide for Prosecutors

A Guide for Law Enforcement Officers

A Guide for Juvenile Probation

To request a copy, please contact the ICJIA by phone at 312-793-8550 or e-mail at cja.irc@illinois.gov.

Upcoming Trainings and Events

National Double Track Youth Court Training ~ June 10-13, 2007

Are you interested in attending a start up training for new program coordinators? Or are you an experienced youth court coordinator looking for new ideas?

The National Association of Youth Courts and the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention are hosting a double track youth court training June 10-13, 2007 in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. Track one is designed for those jurisdictions interested in establishing a youth court program and for new adult youth court and teen court staff and volunteers. Track two is designed for experienced youth court staff and adult volunteers who seek new and innovative strategies and techniques to enhance existing local youth court and teen court programs.

Early registration is recommended, as space is limited to 180 participants. To obtain additional information about this training session and register online, visit http://www.youthcourt.net/training_ta/current.htm.

National Conference on Restorative Justice ~ June 24– 27, 2007

The University of Texas at San Antonio, the Ghost Ranch National Conference Center of Santa Fe and Abiquiu, New Mexico, Schreiner University, and SoL (Source of Light) Center will be holding the Real Life, Real Problems, Real Answers: A National Conference on Restorative Justice at Schreiner University in Kerrville, Texas. This conference is for individuals interested in promoting restorative justice on the local level. The conference will share different approaches to restorative justice as well as information on using restorative justice to solve problems within your community.

For more information please visit <http://www.restorativejusticenow.org/>.

National Youth Court Month ~ September 2007

National Walk for Justice ~ March 2008

Youth volunteers from around the country will come together in Washington, D.C. to march to the Capitol in a Walk for Justice.

Justice Bowl ~ Spring 2008

Communities will host a night of bowling to raise funds for their individual program. The NAYC will provide information to programs to assist them in planning their own event.

National Association of Youth Courts Golf Tournament ~ April 2008

The National Association of Youth Courts will host a golf tournament as a fundraiser for the national association in New Mexico.



Have you visited IYCA's website recently?
Is your program information
included in the State Directory?
Is the information correct?

To ensure you receive important program announcements and youth court information, please take a moment to look at the directories located online at http://www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/communities/youthadvocacy/iyca_by_program.pdf and http://www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/communities/youthadvocacy/iyca_by_county.pdf to confirm your information is correct.

Please email any updates to Theresa Geary at tgeary@atg.state.il.us. Thank you for your help in ensuring an accurate listing of youth court efforts in Illinois.

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